

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 10/608,670

Page 6 of 7

REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated September 1, 2005. In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS**A. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Claims 17 and 25-26**

Claims 17 and 25-26 stand rejected. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 17 and 25-26 to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "the seasoning plasma" and "the process plasma" as shown in the listing of the claims.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 17 and 25-26, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Claims 1-5, 7-10, 19-23, 25-26, 31 and 33

Claims 1-26 stand rejected as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,797,634 B2, issued September 28, 2004 to *Suzuki* in further view of United States Patent No. 6,143,144 issued November 7, 2000 to *Golovato et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Golovato*"). In response, the Applicants have rewritten claims 6, 16 and 24 in independent form, which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claims 1-5, 11-15 and 19-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications to continue prosecution of the cancelled subject matter without prejudice. Claims 7, 9-10, 17-18, 25 and 31-33 have been amended to correct claim dependency.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claims 6, 16, and 24, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over *Suzuki* in view of *Golovato*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 10/608,670

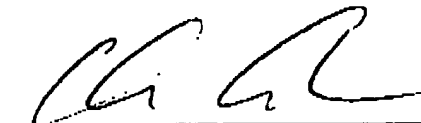
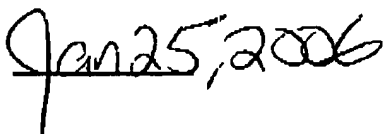
Page 7 of 7

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



KEITH TABOADA
Attorney Reg. No. 45,150
(732) 530-9404

Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Suite 100
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

430820